

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4722

### 1. Name

Historic 1500-1520 North Bradford Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1500-1520 North Bradford Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

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## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of ten (originally eleven) two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built in 1899 by Presley A. Carter, a small-scale local builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted a dark red, with the basement area painted white to imitate the marble basements of more expensive houses.

After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two story houses had decorated friezes—the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a deeply projecting sheet metal cornice consisting of a series of crown and other moldings set above a shallow frieze decorated with a row of dentils. The two end brackets framing the cornice are decorated with rosettes and acanthus leaves, have a lower trefoil extension (as in earlier wooden cornices) and have caps that rise above the roof line.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. A few of the original 2/2 sash remain but most houses have replacement 1/1 sash. Doorways have single light transoms but not original doors remain. The houses sit on fairly low basements lit by a double-light sash, set beneath a double-header segmental arch. Each front door is reached by three brick or concrete steps.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** 1899

**Builder/Architect** Presley A. Carter

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant as representing the very last type of small street houses to be built, in the period c. 1905 – 1909, when a new city ordinance outlawed building houses on streets less than 40' wide. They are also significant for showing fine original "artistic-style" interiors which feature a "reception room/stair area" located in the center of the house. The houses were built by Presley A. Carter, a local builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Carter also built the similar, but slightly wider houses on the north side of Oliver St. and the south side of Federal St. in this western half of the block. He sold houses to a mix of owner-occupants and to investors interested in obtaining rental income. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

Houses in this block of Bradford St. sold to mainly Bohemian owner-occupants who received their mortgages from the several Bohemian community-based building and loans.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 212

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



ST.

B-4722

1500-1530 N. Broadway St.  
BATCH 110

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AVE.

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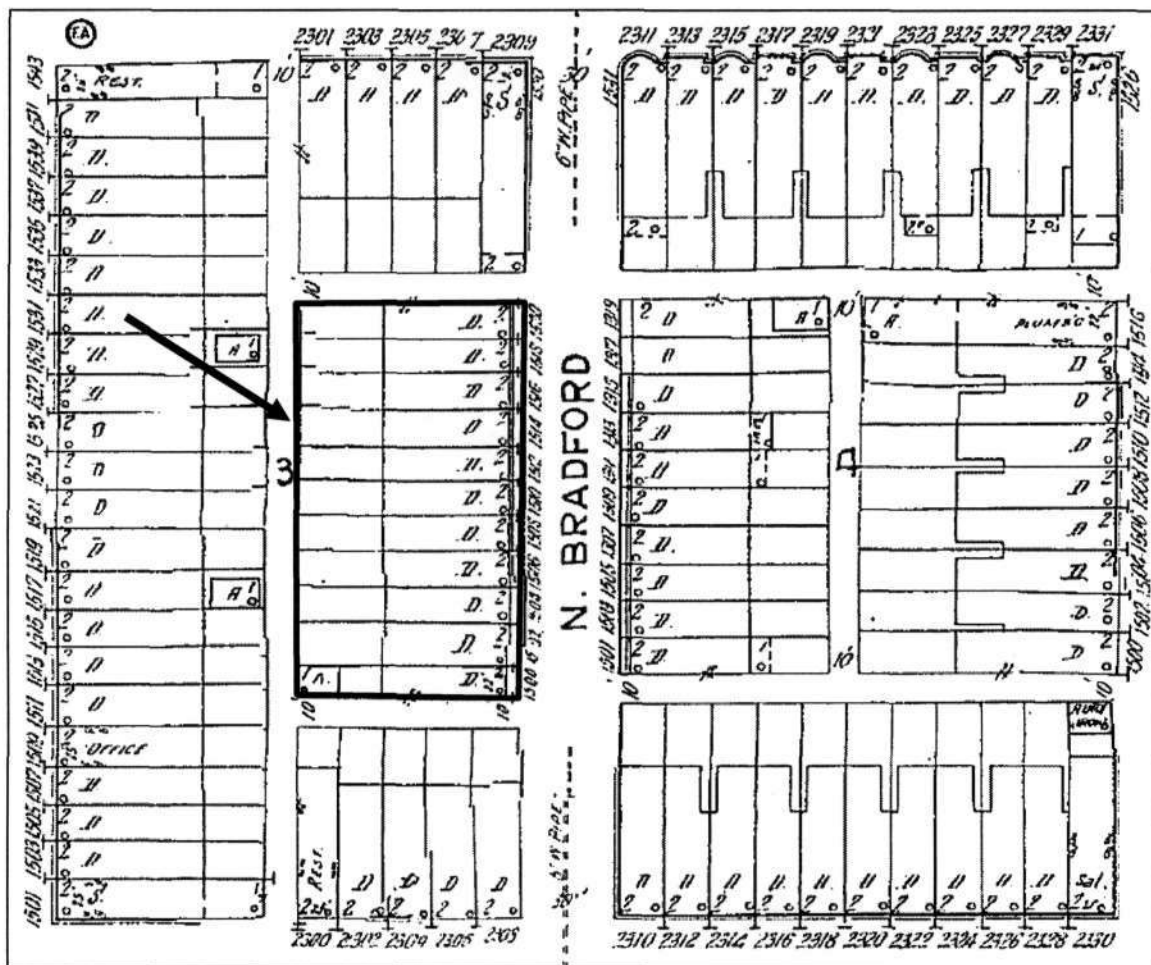
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B-4722

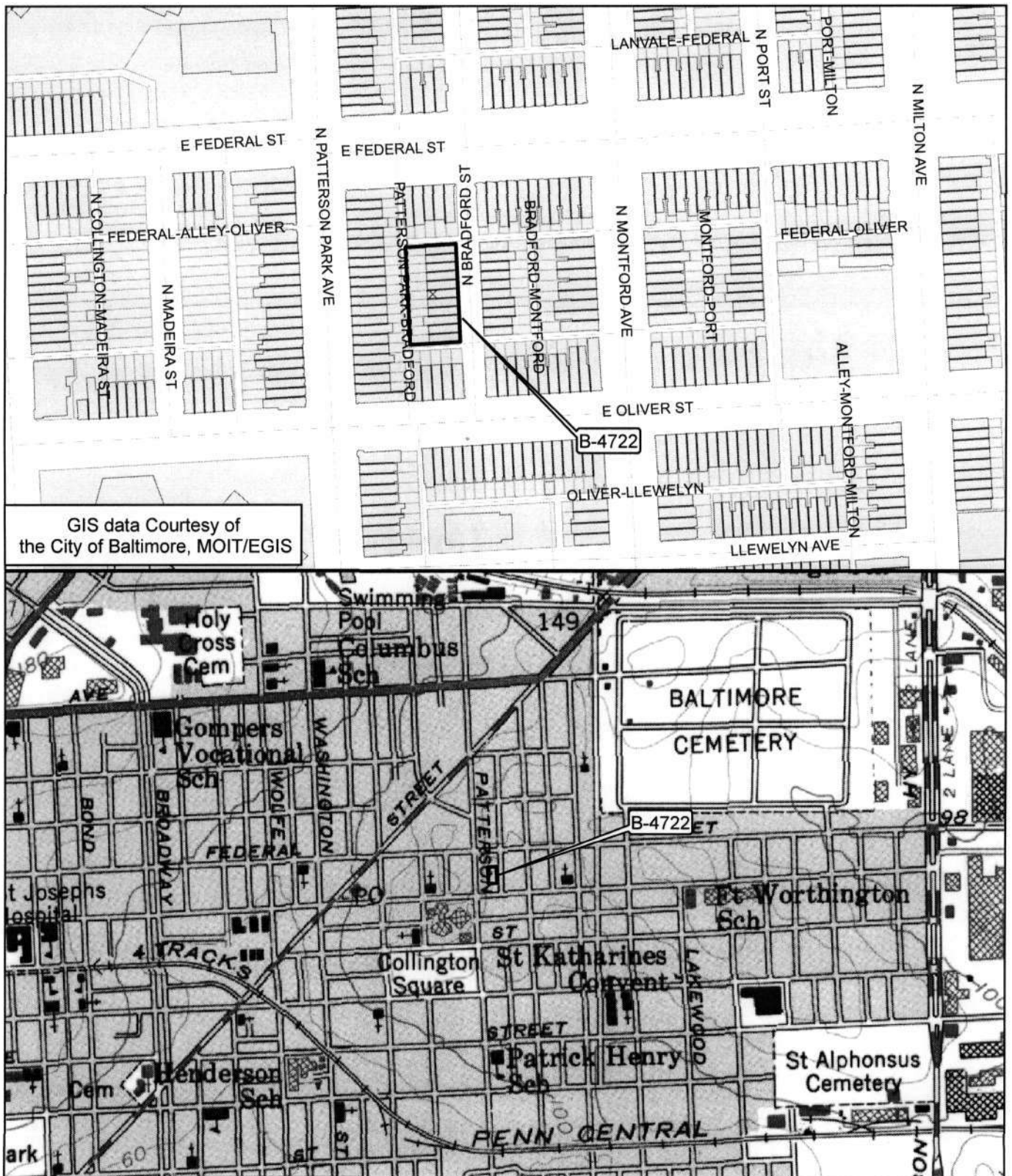
1500-1520 N. Bradford Street

Sanborn Map 1914, Revised 1952, Reprinted 1953

Volume 3, Sheet 300



B-4722  
1500-1520 N. Bradford Street  
Block 1484, Lots 064-074  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







1500-1520 Bradford

B-4722

1500-1520 N. Bradford St.

BACTO, MD

W. Nield

7/96

MD SHDO

1/2



PRIVATE  
PROPERTY

NO TRESPASSING

NO LOITERING

1920

1520 Bradfnd  
W-8

B-4722  
1520 N. Bradfnd St  
BA170.11D  
W. Nield  
7/96  
2/2